

IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

# Of scams, suckers and the wheels of justice (A Redux)

*"There is a sucker born every minute."*

—P. T. Barnum

If you haven't received an email offering you a generous proposition of being the beneficiary of an unclaimed bank account with millions of dollars somewhere in Africa, e.g. Burkina Faso, the Ivory Coast (you learn lessons in geography), then you are an exception. If you haven't received an email stating you have won a fortune in a UK lottery, even if you haven't bought a ticket, then you are an exception.

Behold the dark side of the electronic age in this millennium. The highwayman of old lurked in the dark and preyed on the unwary; the hold-upper used to lie in wait in a grimy street corner and pounced on his prey. These days, to go about his dastardly deed, he sits in a corner of his room, possibly in his pajamas

trolling the net, banging away on a keyboard or frequents some smoke-filled internet café hatching schemes, halfway around the world.

The electronic age has brought us wonders and unbelievable convenience defying space/time constraints allowing us to do things we can only do in previous times if we were physically present in one place. With an internet connection, we can do great and wonderful things that were the stuff of science fiction not so long ago. But there is a downside to the electronic age.

The amount of available crud on the net is staggering. The level of sophistication is up. Those of us who log on to the net are all at risk, unless and until we take the necessary psychological precautions to deal with this

and become relatively "scam proof." No one is sacrosanct. These scams, like the monumental Ponzi scheme in the \$65 billion magnitude perpetrated by Bernie Madoff who incidentally, will rot in jail with little recompense to those he scammed, are designed to prey upon two basic weaknesses in our human nature: GREED and FEAR.

For the little people out of the orbit of the likes of Madoff, who scammed the rich and powerful, however, here's one blanket caveat to keep us on our toes about how lottery scams and propositions of huge fortunes left in orphaned accounts and how these cons play out in cyberspace. REMEMBER — and this can't be emphasized often enough, on this matter, and perhaps, other

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IMMIGRATION EDGE



ATTY. DANIEL HANLON

## USCIS prepares for H-1B filing deluge!

October 1, 2009. Since the H-1B quota for the last few consecutive fiscal years has closed within days of April first, thousands of applicants are already preparing their H-1B Petitions to be filed on or soon after April 1, 2009, which is the earliest date on which an employer may submit a new petition. Absent some extraordinary Congressional action, the recent trend of early-exhaustion of H-1B numbers will likely continue this year.

After the sunset of the provisions of the American Competitiveness in the 21st Century Act (AC-21) in 2002, which had raised the annual number of H-1B visas to 195,000, the "H-1B cap" has been reached in each of the past several years leaving thousands of professional workers and employers seeking to hire them out of business. The annual cap of 65,000 is grossly inadequate to accommodate businesses, as has been made obvious over the past few years, with the cap reached within a few days of April 1, 2008, despite the US economy experi-

encing a deep recession.

Employers seeking to hire an H-1B professional must establish that the prospective employee: (1) has a bachelor's degree; (2) seeks to come to the United States to perform services in a position requiring a bachelor's degree or higher for entry into the position; and that (3) the degree is directly related to the nonimmigrant's field of endeavor. The US employer or sponsor must demonstrate a need for a worker and attest that insufficient domestic labor is available to fill the need. Of course, the U.S. employer must also establish his ability to pay the "prevailing wage" for the position.

If the intended worker is overseas, he may obtain an H-1B visa from the US Embassy upon USCIS approval of a Petition in the US. A nonimmigrant visitor in the United States, for instance on a B-2 visa, may apply for "change of status" from visitor to H-1B professional worker. The new status will be indicated on the person's I-94, but

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# The Voice of FilAmerica

Political empowerment is still a treasure that eludes us as a community here in America. While we are the second largest Asian American community in the United States, we have yet to harvest the power that comes from our numbers. The Voice of FilAmerica features elected and appointed officials — regardless of political affiliation — in the different US States who are of Filipino ancestry. As your Filipino American community newspaper, the Asian Journal recognizes the fact that we all have a responsibility towards bringing political empowerment to fruition, especially for our future generations. It is our hope to have our voices heard all over America.

## Maria Elena 'Yey' Coronel- Alcid Committed Public Servant, City of Los Angeles

by CYNTHIA DE CASTRO  
AJPress

Y EY Coronel is a businesswoman, consultant and community advocate. She previously worked as a committed public servant with the City of Los Angeles for twelve years, having served the City Council as well as two previous Mayors. Under former Mayor James Hahn, Yey was the Director of Community Development in charge of the City's grants processes, as well as the Liaison to the Asian and Pacific Islander community focusing on Filipino American issues from February 2002 – June 30, 2005. Prior to that, Yey served in the Office of Mayor Richard J. Riordan as Assistant Deputy Mayor.

Since 2005, Yey has her own property management consulting firm, MEC Realty & Development Corporation. She is also with the Land Business Corporation; on contract for real estate holding company reorganization and streamlining of activities. She was connected with Epeius Biotechnologies from 2005-2007 working on contract for patient relations and advocacy/liaison to Philippine government related activities.

### Public Service Career

February 2002 – June 30, 2005

Office of Mayor James K. Hahn, Los Angeles, CA

– Director of Community Development/Liaison to the Asian/Pacific Islander Community Responsible for management oversight of the City's annual federal grants budget

– Developed and implemented the Mayor's Annual Housing & Community Development Consolidated Plan (approximately \$180 million total per annum in CDBG, HOME, HOPWA and ESG grants), including preparation of the grants budget and transmittal to the City Council, implementation of grants processes, review of outstanding balances, analysis of applications and coordination with the City Council and departments in developing recommendations for funding

– Initiated and coordinated the City's internet-based grants application process

– Oversaw the administration and implementation of funded programs

– Acted as liaison to HUD, the City Council, various City departments, public agencies, non-profit organizations and other community-based organizations on Consolidated Plan matters.

– Partially responsible for handling housing issues, including public housing and homelessness, oversight over the activities of the Los Angeles Housing Department, coordination with the Community Redevelopment Agency, negotiations with housing developers, and dealing with constituents' issues

– Liaison to the Asian/Pacific Islander community, particularly the Filipino-American community; coordinated and led the celebration of the Los Angeles Asian & Pacific Islander American Heritage Month in 2004 and 2005

– Received a Certificate of Appreciation from Mayor James K. Hahn

July 2001 – January 2002

Community Development Department, Los Angeles, CA

### Assistant Chief Grants Administrator

– Managed the administration of the City's Housing & Community Development Consolidated Plan – conducted a complete overhaul of the grants system, including ensured enforcement of federal regulations, enhanced provision of technical assistance to City departments and contractors, tracking of funded activities, development of computerized databases and provision of support to the offices of the Mayor and City Council as well as City departments.

– Supervised the Community Development Department's Grants Unit (10 staff persons) and Environmental Unit (5 staff persons)

August 1999 – June 2001

Office of Mayor Richard J. Riordan, Los Angeles, CA

### Assistant Deputy Mayor

– Handled issues dealing with housing, homelessness, public housing, community development, human and social services, and programs for People With AIDS; served as liaison to the Housing Department, Community Development Department, LA Homeless Services Authority, and Housing Authority for the City of Los Angeles

– Administered the City's federal grants processes, including the development and implementation of the Mayor's 27th Program Year Housing & Community Development Consolidated Plan; initiated and directed the reorganization of grants processes to assure City compliance with federal rules and regulations; prepared budgets for the Departments of Housing, Community Development, Aging and Disability and assisted in the preparation of budgets for various departments

– Received a Certificate of Appreciation from Mayor Richard J. Riordan

December 1993 – August 1999

Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst, Los Angeles, CA

### Legislative Analyst

– Analyzed legislative and policy issues, including legislative bills (state and federal bills) and motions on matters dealing with housing, redevelopment, community and economic development, social services, recreation and parks, cultural affairs, aging, and domestic violence; prepared reports with policy recommendations to City Council Committees; prepared reports, motions and resolutions for individual council offices; assisted in the restructure, reorganization and administration of the City's Domestic Violence Task Force; and handled the assignment and dissemination of legislative bills (state and federal) to City departments

– Received a "Department Hero" award from Councilmember Jackie Goldberg and the staff of



the Office of the 13th Council District  
**Other Professional Experiences**  
Vice President & Chief Financial Officer  
Amecon Holding Corporation, Long Beach, CA (1986 – 1993)

– Assisted the President in the over-all management of a real estate and development corporation – handled real estate purchases and sales; staff training and administration; managed and maintained real estate inventory, accounts payables and receivables, account collection, pay-offs and foreclosures, and property and corporate income taxes; handled employee and client relations

### President/Broker

MEC Realty & Development Corporation, Makati, Philippines (1988 – 1989)

– Conducted negotiations on real estate sales and rentals; handled management of rental luxury homes and condominiums; and organized, established and trained teams of real estate agents

### Education

– Bachelor of Science in Planning and Development

– University of Southern California • Los Angeles, CA

– Associate in Arts Degree

– Marymount Palos Verdes College • Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

### Awards received:

– Distinction in the Honors Program

– Distinction in the Life Sciences

– Outstanding Foreign Student of the Year

– Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges

– Associated Student Body Award for Service as Secretary-Treasurer

– Peer Counselors Award

– Outstanding Award for Theater Arts

– Yearbook Editor-in-Chief

– Dean's List

– Real Estate Training Certificate (required study for a Broker's license)

### Civic & Volunteer Participation

– Southern California/Los Angeles Filipino American Centennial Planning Committee – Co-Chairperson

– Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA)

– Boardmember

– Received 2004 Community Service Award

– Served in the Annual Fundraising Dinner Committee in 2003 and 2005

– Philippine Independence Day Golf Tournament Committee (2006) – Treasurer

– Received Certificate of Appreciation from Consul General Willy Gaa

– Received a Certificate of Appreciation from Consul General Marciano Paynor, Jr.

– Culinary Arts Pavilion – Founding Member

– FilAm Arts – Volunteer/Advisor

– Ayala Foundation-USA and GILAS Program

– Volunteer

– Appointed by Consul-General Marciano Paynor to assist in the three-week planning, coordination and celebration of Pres GMA's visit; assembled, coordinated, and assigned all volunteers, including entertainers and program participants; obtained the use of venue – Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels – and Cardinal Mahoney as officiator (for the mass); organized the church service (mass) and participants; planned crowd control for an expected 3,500 attendees; interfaced with the Philippine Consulate, Special Service, Cathedral, and other major players; assisted the Consulate in planning for the reception and obtained reception performers

– Historic Filipinotown Neighborhood Council

– Historic Filipinotown Chamber of Commerce, Founding Board Member

– Historic Filipinotown Committee - Assisted in the establishment of Historic Filipinotown; led the planning & coordination of the celebration at City Hall on August 2, 2002; continuing participation

– Los Angeles Filipino Association of City Employees (LAFACE) – Past President

– Los Angeles City Employees Asian American Association (LACEAAA)

– Asian Pacific American Legislative Staffers (APALS)

– All City Employees Benefits & Services Association (ACEBSA)

– Quartz Hill High School Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee

– USC Alumni Association

– USC School of Policy, Planning & Development Panel of Speakers, Mentor Program & Shadow Program

– Marymount Palos Verdes College Alumni Association ■



*Our family would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to All during the passing of our Little Angel Zoren.*

**Baby Zoren Gian Anor-Lagdamen**  
March 1, 2009 - March 5, 2009

**Parents**  
Rommel & Anabelle Lagdamen.

**Lagdamen Family**  
Grandparents Alfredo & Lily Lagdamen  
Aunt Annaliza Lagdamen  
Uncle Glenn Lagdamen  
Uncle Rhodel Lagdamen married to Andrea and son Dylan Lagdamen.

**Anor Family**  
Grandparents Rodolfo & Fatima Anor  
Uncle Randy Anor married to Iris son Marcus Brandon Anor  
Aunt Anna Marie Anor-Dauz married to Joshua Dauz and daughter Merielle Jana Anor-Dauz.

*Sincere thanks to all our Immediate Family Relatives & Friends.*

A Special Thank You to Nobuo & Mimie Honda for the Flowers, Pastor Jo Danganan & Brother Henjie of Praise Christian Fellowship, Malou Halili-Case (AJPI) & U.S.C. DEM Staff.